GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2760
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2002
PERMISSION TO DTH
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY;V. SAROJA

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted DTH (Direct to Home) Television Services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of licences issued to the service providers as on October 31, 2002; and

(e) the number of service providers which are providing DTH services in the country as on October 31, 2002?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)
(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Detailed guidelines for starting DTH service were issued in March, 2001.
The guidelines, inter-alia, provide that -

- The licensee company shall be an Indian company, registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956;

- Licensee shall adhere to programme and advertisement codes laid down by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting from time to time;

- All foreign personnel likely to be deployed by way of appointment, contract, consultancy etc. by the licensee for installation, maintenance and operation of the licencee`s service shall be required to obtain security clearance from the Government of India prior to their deployment;

- All content provided by the DTH platform to the subscribers, irrespective of its source, shallpass through the encryption and conditional access system, located within the earth station situated on Indian soil;

- The licensee shall ensure that its facilities are not used for transmission of any objectionable or obscene content, messages or communication inconsistent with the laws of India;

- The licensee shall provide the necessary facility for continuous monitoring of the DTHbroadcasting service at its own cost and maintain the recordings of programmes and advertisements carried on the platform for a period of ninety days from the date of broadcast and produce the same to the licensor or its authorized representative, as and when required;

- The licensee will, if required by the licensor or its authorized representative, provide necessary facilities for continuous monitoring for any particular aspect of the licensee`s activities and operations;

- The applicant is required to fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down in the DTH guidelines and isalso subject to security and technical clearances from the concerned departments. The guidelines are available on this Ministry`s website: mib.nic.in.
(c): Does not arise.
(d): Two applications have been received seeking permission to start DTH service in the country.
(e): At present, there is no DTH service provider in the country.